

VSP Public Comment

From: JoAnn [joannpen@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2005 8:08 AM
To: McDannold, Bruce
Subject: Protect our voting

Dear Mr. McDannold --

Please do not let the voting machine companies coerce the Secretary into a premature decision. As our voting population grows, and as the voting process seems to be getting more contentious, it is vital that our voting process be impeccable. This is the heart of democracy we are talking about!

What we have now is not perfect, but it is better to continue this, rather than push ahead to a system that cannot reliably verify nor recount voting results, should it become necessary. The integrity of our voting system must outweigh some artificial deadline.

Volunteers are basic to our voting process. They need accessible voter-verified paper ballots with an auditable trail, printed on archival paper in *readable font* on separate sheets for each ballot. The counties' vote counters should be able to easily handle the ballots, which must preserve confidentiality and not reveal the sequence of voters.

Further, please do not approve voting systems with wireless and Internet capabilities that easily compromise the integrity, secrecy, and security of the voting process. Every day we read about the damage from and access by knowledgeable hackers, manipulating our credit records, changing school grades, stealing identity. It is unthinkable to allow this kind of vulnerability into our voting system.

Legitimate questions have been raised that the voting systems under consideration, especially Diebold, not only lack the voting security and integrity we need, but have systems that actually violate state law and the constitutional guarantees of accessible, countable voting.

The Secretary is a calm and rational man. There is great pressure to 'just do something.' I pray he will resist that pressure, and honor the spirit and the letter of protecting our constitutional, democratic right to voting that matters.

Thank you,

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